

HODGES SQUARE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2016

Sun Turtle Office Furniture, Bailey Circle

Meeting called to order at 5:31 pm

Minutes were presented and approved.

A motion to accept last meeting's Minutes was made by Cathi Strother, seconded by Art Costa, and passed.

Treasurers Report: Art Costa/Forrest Sklar. There is close to \$2700 in the bank account.

Connections

Update on Lyman Allyn Museum Outreach Art met with Jose with goal to have LAAM (Lyman Allyn Museum) Rep at HSVA meetings, and received a generic outreach plan from LAAM, who are seriously pursuing connections with New London and environs schools. As the Museum is closed Mondays, staff do not come to HSVA meetings.

Forrest noted that no replacement for Josh has yet been found. (Katelin Teel) Tammy Daugherty suggested asking Tracee Reiser. Forrest will contact Tracee.

Katelin discussed the Under 95 Project and installation of murals under the overpass, noting that they are waiting for the State of CT to provide proposal details which must be submitted by the City of New London. The City indicates that this would be part of a big project with LAAM as catalyst to create work groups for different projects. Art noted that LAAM is on board with the recreational trail, designed by Brian Kent, that runs through Connecticut College property to the mouth of Williams Street at Briggs Street. Grants management by Sybil Tetteh take care of related projects.

Hodges Square Parking Mary Secor Sullivan, noting that OIC (in the old Don Juan's restaurant space) is leaving at the end of December, discussed the current parking allocation for her building, limited in the rear, with public parking in front. Cathi noted that the rear parking lot belongs to all contiguous buildings with open access at both ends. Bill, Tim and Desmond are contacts for the Portuguese Fisherman restaurant. Mary asked for attention be paid to the park to discourage it as a drinking destination for homeless people. She is increasing lighting in the Park area. Jerry mentioned that the monument is not illuminated at night and could be. Cathi will contact Kathy Zall, Director of the Homeless Hospitality Center, to see if she can reduce loitering.

HSVA Membership Recruitment

Cathi and Katelin will work on this.

Old Business Updates

Big Jump Sybil Tetteh, New London City Planner, talked about a SBA Innovation Research \$1M grant for technical assistance for motorized/non-motorized transportation in New London. Having a strong sense of a small business community in Hodges Square, this research-based grant means partnering with tech/scientific/engineering. The City will partner with Hodges Square to get this grant which would be good to lure small businesses. Art noted that New London Local First has an SBA grant.

Safe Streets Sybil had nothing new to discuss.

The Old Mill Sybil indicated that the Mill is being viewed by the City as a food security and

coffee and pastry kiosk, flour from the gristmill being used to make the pastries. Sybil met with Greg Farmer and CT Trust. Greg provided some grant leads. Fiddleheads and F.R.E.S.H. are also interested in this project. Judi Cox, Loan Specialist for the New London Housing Conservation Program, helps to voluntarily maintain The Mill, brought rack cards for those who can distribute them, can open the Mill anytime for groups, and wants to reconnect it with the Hodges Square community, suggesting 4-5 open houses in summer. Judi talked about the Mill being one of the oldest industrial sites in the U.S.. Forrest suggested that HSVA have one of their meetings at the Mill. Jerry Sinnamon asked if anyone has gristmill experience. Kenyon's Gristmill in RI is the nearest operating mill. New member, Ed Lemoine, has expertise in setting up mechanics, has background in hydrotech work. Further talk included marketing the Mill as a wedding destination site, partnership with the City for overseeing programs, looking for a conservancy model, (Sybil) looking at USDA approval. Ronna Stuller asked about daylighting streams to the Mill.

A motion to endorse the idea of renovating the Mill as a functional property open to the public was made by Jerry, seconded by Robert Lee, and passed.

Working Cities Grant (Sybil) New London has submitted a letter of interest for the planning phase and is waiting to hear response. This a Boston Fed application expanding philanthropic efforts to New London, one of municipalities selected to apply to the planning and implementation phase. Within the City of New London, Hodges Square Village is an included candidate.

Future Land Use Proposal for Hodges Square (Sybil) New London is updating its POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development), determining what land use will benefit the city, which can be revised every ten years. She produced a zoning map, accompanied by a copy of Article V of the Zoning Regulations of New London, suggesting this the best time for the Hodges Square community to think about a land use amendment. Sybil wants Hodges Square, designated an historic area, to be economically sustainable, and is looking at a small residential areas with small businesses reusing existing structures. A Neighborhood Commercial re-zoning is possible as a Neighborhood Business District (NB), incorporating small businesses that meet the frequently-occurring needs of residents. The POCD process is happening now, with re-zoning coming up in April/May, and a vote by September.

Discussion followed about traffic flow on Crystal Ave past Winthrop School, teacher parking and drop-off issues (Cathi) and along Williams St.. Art noted that Hodges Square is an urban village, whose density, proximity and walkability require zoning and traffic changes. It was suggested that HSVA look at paint-on-the-ground pilot programs to define possible changes along streets. It was agreed that the POCD will be taken up again at the next (Jan 2017) meeting. The zoning map is to be given to Forrest.

Using the Creative Placemaking Master Plan, Jerry showed Sybil the boundaries of Hodges Square (page 46), indicating that State Pier needs to be included in Hodges Square planning. Discussion followed with concern about an industrial park, Crystal Towers, access to rail on the west side of the river, existing air pollution a major factor, how State Pier area development will affect the Old Mill and Hodges Square community, that Hodges Square community must have input into the port (State Pier) revitalization, and that Ft. Trumbull fishing boats are moving to State Pier. Art talked about an innovation district zone, focusing on economic development, with food as a hub for urban farming, to include food trucks, farm markets.

Katelin suggested that a work group be created to compile all the projects and work with Sybil and Tammy to create a master plan to get the work done, including LAAM, HSVA, New London Landmarks, Hygienic, Spark.

The next regular meeting is on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 5:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

R.S.
Tina DuBosque